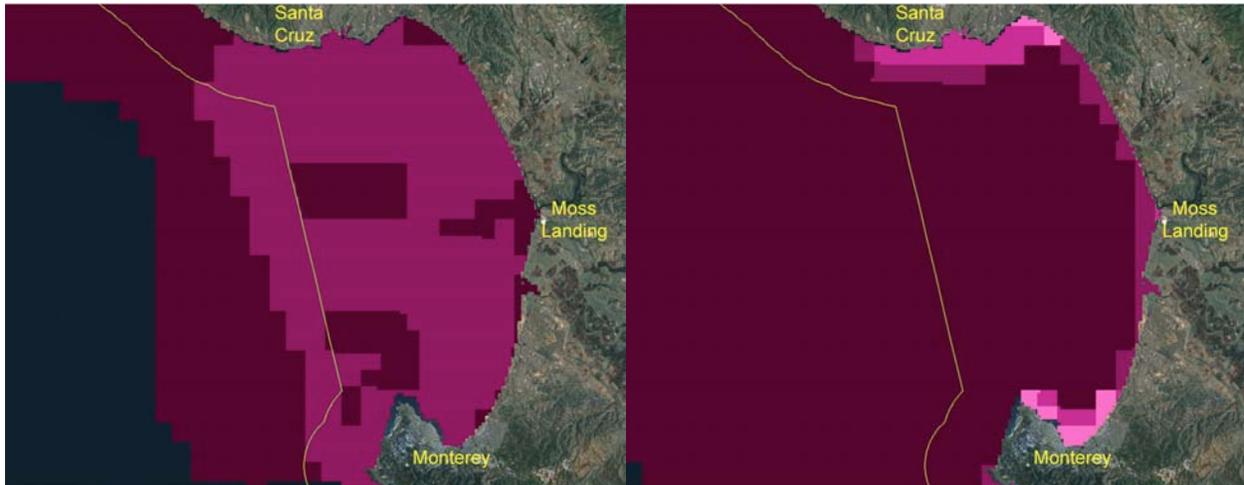


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Monterey Bay Waters



Maps of commercial (left) and recreational (right) fishing efforts in Monterey Bay and the adjacent waters. Lighter areas indicate areas where multiple fishing methods overlap. The yellow line indicates the seaward boundary of California's marine waters. Commercial fishing methods include benthic fixed gear, benthic mobile gear, dive fishing and pelagic fishing. Recreational methods include kayak fishing, dive fishing, fishing from boats and shore-based fishing. To view interactive maps of California ocean uses, visit the interactive mapping tool at the [National Marine Protected Areas Center California Ocean Uses Atlas](http://www.mpa.gov/dataanalysis/atlas_ca/). Source: NOAA Marine Protected Areas Center (http://www.mpa.gov/dataanalysis/atlas_ca/).

Encompassing more than one-quarter of the California coast and over 15,700 km² (6,060 mi²) of ocean the [Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary \(MBNMS\)](#) is one of the largest federally protected marine environments in the world. Occupying a small portion of this area in the central segment of the MBNMS is the sanctuary's namesake, Monterey Bay.

The mouth of the bay is approximately 30.5 km (19 mi) wide. Monterey Bay contains some of the most geologically diverse areas of California's marine environment. The [Monterey Canyon system](#) is a unique geologic feature that contributes to the high diversity of marine organisms that inhabit Monterey Bay and its surrounding waters.

The waters of Monterey Bay host a diversity of **commercially** and **recreationally** important fishes and invertebrates as well as several different habitat types. Fishing **efforts** are distributed throughout the bay.

Five general marine habitats can be described within Monterey Bay and the nearby waters: **nearshore** soft bottom habitats, nearshore rocky reef and kelp habitats, rocky deep shelf and slope habitats, soft bottom deep shelf and slope habitats, and open-water habitats. For more



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information on these and other habitats in which fish live, see [Fishery Science - Biology & Ecology](#).

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Additional Resources

California Seafood Council – [Description of Commercial Fishing Districts](#)



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California State University Long Beach – [College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics: Oceanography of the Southern California Bight](#)

MarineMap – [Online Mapping Tool for Southern California](#)